(c) whether Government are also considering upgradation of hangers and maintenance of aircrafts to that of international standards by signing JV agreements wtih other international firms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Airports Authority of India has planned further improvements in the infrastructure facilities at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata airports. In respect of Bangalore airport, a new Greenfield airport of international standards is coming up at Devanhalli near Bangalore. The major works in progress during 2004-2005 at Mumbai airport are: modification and upgradation of intake point for power supply at cargo complex, new bridge across Mithi river and extension of B-3 taxi track, construction of 4 nos. international remote parking bays, 4 nos additional domestic parking bays, taxi-way parallel to secondary runway and extenstion and modification of Terminal-IB; at Kolkata airport consturction of new hangar, reconstruction of bay nos. 11 & 12,strengthening of main runway including CAT-II lighting, consturction of integrated cargo complex; at Delhi airport: replacement of false ceiling including provision of fire sprinklers, re-construction of 'C taxi track, replacement of 8 nos. HS-17AC plant, reconstruction of international apron, taxi track, damaged slabs of bay nos. 81—85 and under ground cable from DVB as second source of supply and at Chennai airport apron for bay no.35.The above works will be completed during 2005-2006.There are also plans to improved the infrastructure facilities during the tenth five year plan. Upgradation and development of airports is a continuing process depending upon the traffic potential, requirement of the airlines and financial resources.

(c) and (d) No JV agreement with other international firms has been received or pending with Airports Authority of India for upgradation of hangars and maintenance of aircrafts to that of international standards.

Development of Yermarus Airstrip

1400. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India had conducted a preliminary survey of the Yermarus airstrip near Raichur in Karnataka to make it a permanent base to link air routes among Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hubli and Goa;

(b) if so, when the survey was conducted and whether the survey has indicated the feasibility of the proposed project;

(c) the estimated cost for upgrading the above airstrip;

(d) whether Karnataka Government has agreed to bear the cost; and

(e) the present status of the above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has no plan at present for development
of Yemnarus airstrip at Raichur due to non-receipt of any demand from any scheduled airline to commence operations.

Adherence to CVC Guidelines on Purchase of Aircrafts

1401. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the public sector airline companies in India are likely to place orders for over 200 aircrafts with the world's two major aircraft manufacturers—Airbus and Boeing Co.worth $10 billion in 2005; and

(b) whether all these proposed purchases meet the CVC guidelines in full?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) (a) Indian Airlines proposal for acquisition of 43 aircrafts Manufactured by Airbus Industrie with engines from CFM International was approved by the PIB on 10.11.2004. Pursuant to the PIB approval, final negotiations with the lowest bidder have been initiated. An inter-disciplinary team of IAL is undertaking the negotiations under the overall supervision of an Oversight Committee.

A project Report for the induction of 18 B737-800W aircraft for Air India Express, a subsidiary of Air India has been submitted to the Government for approval. Air India has invited bids for 50 aircrafts.Technical and financial bids have been received from M/s. Airbus Industrie and M/s. Boeing for the aircraft and from Rolls Royce, General Electric and Pratt & Whitney for the engines. Techno Economic-cum-Negotiating Committee has